[Mr. R. Nilakanta Pillai.]

there is no improvement so far in the earnings of the Railways a net loss of Rs ·50 of a lakh is estimated for the next year.

EXPENDITURE CHARGED TO REVENUE.

8. The budget proposals of heads of departments for the next year have been subjected to a close and careful scrutiny and the normal requirements of all departments provided for. The important nation-building activities were also considered and funds provided as far as possible. The programme of expenditure charged to revenue of the next year is thus estimated at Rs 229·25 lakhs.

9. *Land Revenue.*—The estimated expenditure for the next year is Rs ·31 of a lakh more than the anticipated actuals of the current year. In pursuance of Section 40 (*c*) of the Jenmi and Kudiyan Amendment Regulation, XII of 1108, a Special Officer with an office staff was appointed in Kumbhom last for the settlement of Jenmikaram throughout the State. In the course of the Special Officer's work, it was found that the normal staff in the taluk offices would not be able to cope with the increased work and additional temporary staff had therefore to be appointed in the taluk offices from Edavom last. Subsequently it was found that the Tahsildars with their various duties to attend to had very little time to devote to this special work and that unaided, it might take a very long time for them to complete the work. As the Jenmikaram settlement work has to be expedited, the appointment of full-time officers with power to dispose of jenmikaram cases is considered essential. Provision has therefore been made for the appointment of 37 Jenmikaram Settlement Officers with a small additional taluk staff for six months in 1109, as also for the continuance of the office of the Special Officer to the end of Tulam 1109, after which date, the whole work will be placed under the control of the Land Revenue Commissioner. The existing taluk staff is provided for to the end of Dhanu next.

The question of a re-survey and re-settlement was urged on the attention of Government at successive sessions of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Legislative Council. But before the actual settlement operations are started, it is necessary to draw up a comprehensive memorandum dealing with the principles and the lines of settlement to be followed. A Special Officer has therefore been appointed for the purpose for a period of one year from 10th Edavom 1108. He will devote his attention to the outstanding problems for the future settlement discussed by the Settlement Dewan Peishkar in his final report and, in particular, to the problems relating to the prepartion of current and up-to-date field maps, revision of territorial limits and rearrangement of taluks and pakuthies, the adoption of a uniform commutation rate for the tax on wet lands throughout the State in view of the varying rates of commutation for different proportions of wet land tax, the equalisation of assessment, the simplification of land tenures, the conversion of Thiruppuvaram payments into treasury payments and

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such other points as are necessary for a proper re-settlement. The Special Officer will also prepare a Revenue Settlement Manual for the guidance of the Settlement Officers. An allotment of Rs ·18 of a lakh has been included in the next year's budget for the Special Officer and his staff. Provision has also been made in the Survey Department budget for a small temporary staff for completing the sub-division survey of the Pallivasal-Neriamangalam road still left unsurveyed and also for checking and closing the records of the field work done in connection with the survey of the lands in Mannan Kandam Valley. When the temporary puduval staff was abolished at the close of 1106, a large volume of puduval sub-division work had been left incomplete in the taluks of Pattanamtitta, Kunnathur, Kottarakara and Pattanapuram. As the work so far done has to be completed and as the normal taluk staff will hardly have time to attend to this work, provision is made for the entertainment of a temporary staff for clearing off the arrears in those taluks. The special temporary staff in the Survey Department for checking the puduval sub-division sketches is proposed to be continued in 1109 also as there is still a large balance to be disposed of. Besides continuing the existing Survey School at Kottayam during 1109, it is proposed to open a Special Survey class at Trivandrum for the training of Tahsildars and Magistrates who have not yet had survey training. It is expected that the fees levied from the students will more or less cover the expenditure thereon. Increased allotment has been made for improvements to markets and a sum of Rs 6,123 has been provided for acquisition of lands for providing house sites to the fishermen of the Quilon beach.

10. *Excise.*—The smuggling of dutiable articles, especially tobacco and beedi tobacco, has of late been on the increase in the northern frontier of the State and the revenue from tobacco is adversely affected thereby. A special staff was therefore appointed about the middle of this year to successfully combat the smuggling operations. The staff has so far collected only the materials required for organising a method to prevent smuggling. It is therefore proposed to continue this special staff during 1109 and also to appoint an additional preventive force strong enough to guard all the smugglers' routes in the northern frontier and thus break up the gangs of smugglers. Provision is also made for the continuance of the temporary staff entertained in connection with the introduction of local option in the Changanachery town, for guarding the Arukutty, Piravom and Alwaye frontiers and for the compilation of statistics in the principal Customs Houses and in the office of the Excise Commissioner.

11. *Forest.* The forests of Travancore have always been famous for their large variety of game. Of late, there has been considerable poaching and indiscriminate game shooting in the Travancore Hills. In British India and other Indian States, where a similar state of affairs existed, associations have been formed for game preservation. It is essential that some measures should be devised here also to prevent the wanton destruction of game and it is therefore proposed to appoint a

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